

Park the Car and See the Park!

Glacier National Park offers a free shuttle bus service along the Going-to-the-Sun Road. The service provides access for visitors to locations along the road and helps to reduce congestion during road rehabilitation work. Last summer over 170,000 visitors took advantage of the buses. This year the shuttle service starts July 1 and runs through September 2, 2010.

The Apgar Transit Center is the shuttle information hub on the west side of the

park. Exhibits, kiosks, and signs in the plaza explain the system and how to make the most of the shuttles.

Shuttles leave the Apgar Transit Center, and other stops on the west side of the park, every 15 to 30 minutes. The St. Mary Visitor Center is the transit hub for the east side. East side shuttles depart every 30 minutes and service all stops between the St. Mary Visitor Center and Logan Pass. Transfer stops are located at Avalanche

Creek and Logan Pass. Refer to the shuttle route map below for specifics on traveling across the park. You will need to transfer one, or possibly, two times to travel from one end of the route to the other. Signs on the shuttles indicate their destinations.

Information at the Apgar Transit Center and St. Mary Visitor Center assists with trip planning questions about the shuttle system. While the Apgar Transit Center is largely self-service, volunteers will

be on hand to help with transit related information. Maps at shuttle stops, and information in this paper, will also aid in planning your day’s outing.

For more in-depth information about the park, rangers are on duty at the Apgar, St. Mary, and Logan Pass Visitor Centers.

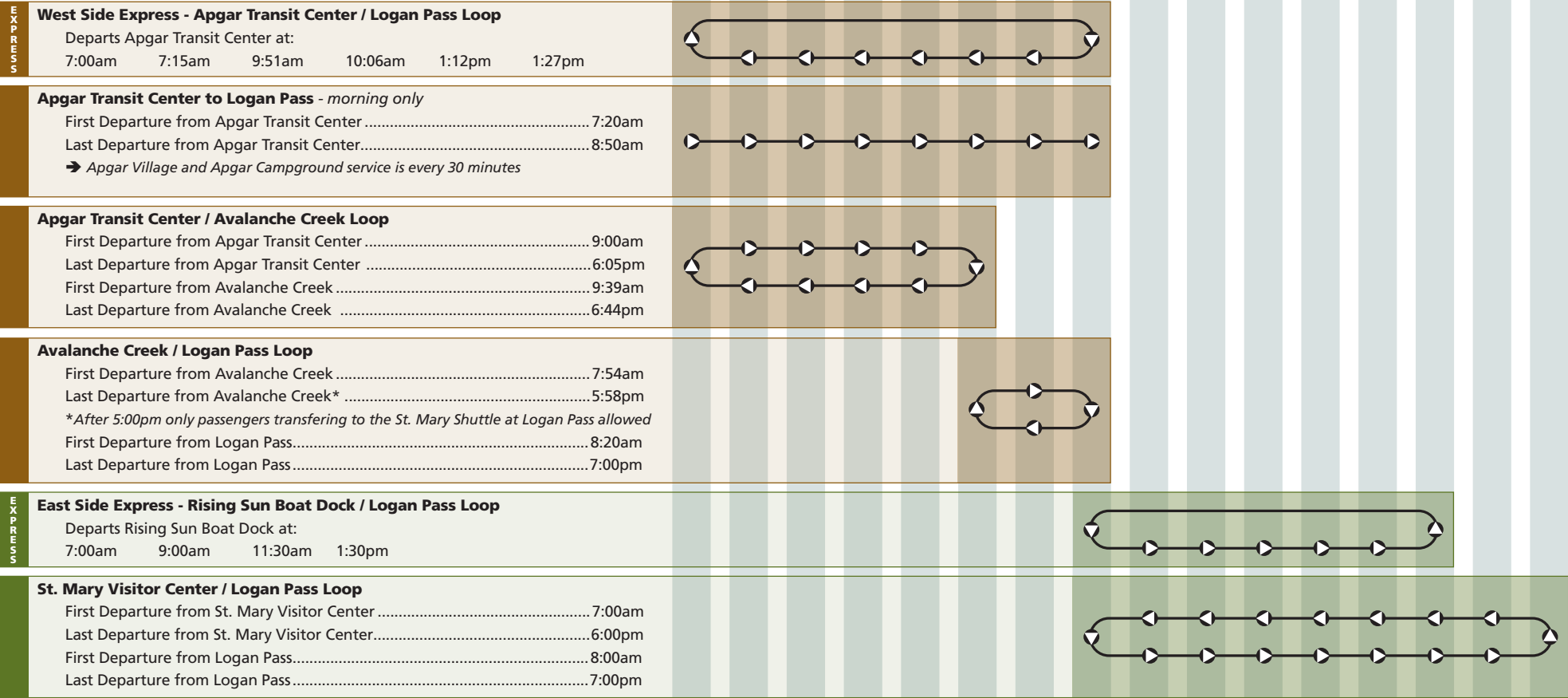
Going-to-the-Sun Road Shuttle Routes

Westside Shuttles

- Depart every 15 to 30 minutes
- Approximate travel time from Apgar Transit Center to Logan Pass, 1½ hours
- Transfer Stops: Avalanche Creek and Logan Pass
- Last shuttle from Apgar Transit Center, connecting to the St. Mary Shuttle at Logan Pass, departs the Apgar Transit Center at 5:15pm.
 - Last shuttle from Avalanche Creek, connecting to the St. Mary Shuttle at Logan Pass, departs Avalanche Creek at 5:58pm.

Eastside Shuttles

- Depart every 30 minutes
- Approximate travel time from St. Mary Visitor Center to Logan Pass, 1 hour
- Transfer Stop: Logan Pass
- Last shuttle from St. Mary Visitor Center, connecting to the Apgar Transit Center Shuttle at Logan Pass, departs the St. Mary Visitor Center at 6:00pm.



Shuttle Friendly Trails - *Park your car and enjoy Glacier*



Shuttle at the Loop, Avalanche Gorge on the Trail of the Cedars, Hikers at Granite Park Chalet - Photos by David Restivo and Bill Hayden

Lake McDonald Lodge

A number of trails radiate out from Lake McDonald Lodge. Destinations such as Sperry Chalet, Snyder Lake, and Mt. Brown have made the lodge a popular base camp for west side hiking. The new shuttle system has expanded the possibilities and increased the number of easier options available. Hikers can now shuttle to the very popular Avalanche Creek area to hike the wheelchair accessible Trail of the Cedars or continue further to sparkling Avalanche Lake. Parking is generally not available mid-day at this location, so leaving your vehicle at the lodge will help ease congestion and also ease the stress level of finding a place to park the car.

Trail	Trailhead Location	Mileage (one way)
Fish Lake	Sperry Trailhead	2.9 mi.
Gunsight Pass Trailhead.....	Sperry Trailhead	21.4 mi.
Mt. Brown Lookout.....	Sperry Trailhead	5.3 mi.
Snyder Lakes.....	Sperry Trailhead	4.4 mi.
Sperry Chalet.....	Sperry Trailhead	6.4 mi.

Avalanche Creek

It’s easy to see why this stunning area is so popular. Huge ancient cedars, dappled green sunlight filtering through the forest canopy, and cold rushing rapids combine to make this area a must see. It’s also easy to see why the shuttle is important to this spot. Parking is very limited. Leave your car and use the shuttle to discover the magic of Avalanche. A short shuttle ride away from Avalanche is Lake McDonald Lodge where boat trips, restaurants, and horseback rides can all combine into a great driving-free day of hiking and fun in the Lake McDonald Valley.

Trail	Trailhead Location	Mileage (one way)
Avalanche Lake.....	Avalanche Gorge Bridge	2.0 mi.
Trail of the Cedars.....	Avalanche Picnic Area	0.7 mi.

The Loop

One of the most popular trails in the park either begins or ends here, depending on your route. Granite Park Chalet is only 4 miles away but it’s 2200 feet up this steep trail. Most hikers will probably choose to end their Highline Trail trek here, and use the shuttle to return to their starting point.

Trail	Trailhead Location	Mileage (one way)
Granite Park Chalet.....	The Loop Trailhead.....	4.0 mi.
Logan Pass	The Loop Trailhead.....	11.6 mi.

Logan Pass

The sub-alpine world of Logan Pass draws visitors from around the world; it’s a popular spot. Unless you arrive early in the morning or late in the afternoon, the parking lot will probably be full. Avoid the parking hassles and shuttle up to the pass. Here you will find the Hidden Lake Nature Trail leading through wildflower filled meadows to a dramatic view of Hidden Lake. This is also the starting point for hikes along the Highline Trail to Granite Park Chalet and backpacking locations further north.

Trail	Trailhead Location	Mileage (one way)
Granite Park Chalet.....	Continental Divide Sign	7.6 mi.
Hidden Lake Overlook	Logan Pass Visitor Center.....	1.5 mi.
Hidden Lake.....	Logan Pass Visitor Center.....	3.0 mi.
The Loop	Continental Divide Sign	11.6 mi.

Siyeh Bend

Prior to the new shuttle system, hiking near spectacular Siyeh Pass was difficult because hikers ended up several miles down the road from their car. Now hikers can shuttle to Siyeh Bend and hike over the highest trail section in the park to Sunrift Gorge where transportation both east and west is available. For a shorter hike, Preston Park at the junction of the Piegan Pass and Siyeh trails, is a series of beautiful flower filled meadows dotted with clumps of sub-alpine fir. Trails also connect from here to shuttle stops at Gunsight Pass Trailhead, St. Mary Falls, Sunrift Gorge, and Sun Point.

Trail	Trailhead Location	Mileage (one way)
Gunsight Pass Trailhead.....	Piegan Pass Trailhead	2.5 mi.
Piegan Pass	Piegan Pass Trailhead	4.5 mi..
Preston Park.....	Piegan Pass Trailhead	~ 2.7 mi.
Siyeh Pass Area	Piegan Pass Trailhead	4.7 mi.
Sunrift Gorge.....	Piegan Pass Trailhead	10.3 mi.

Gunsight Pass Trailhead

The trail over Gunsight Pass provides one of the premier one or two night backpacking experiences in the park. By using the shuttle hikers no longer need a vehicle at each end of the hike, in fact you don’t need a vehicle at all. The hike is easier if you travel from Gunsight Pass Trailhead to Lake McDonald, but can be done the other way as well. For shorter hikes from this shuttle stop you can connect with the trails to St. Mary, Virginia, and Baring Falls just east of this stop.

Trail	Trailhead Location	Mileage (one way)
Deadwood Falls	Gunsight Pass Trailhead	1.3 mi.
Gunsight Lake	Gunsight Pass Trailhead	5.3 mi.
Gunsight Pass	Gunsight Pass Trailhead	9.2 mi.
Lake McDonald Lodge	Gunsight Pass Trailhead	21.4 mi.
St. Mary Falls	Gunsight Pass Trailhead	3.2 mi.
Virginia Falls.....	Gunsight Pass Trailhead	3.9 mi.
Baring Falls	Gunsight Pass Trailhead	3.9 mi.

St. Mary Falls Shuttle Stop

St. Mary, Virginia, and Baring Falls are all within a short hiking distance of this and several other shuttle stops in the immediate area. Many combinations of shuttles and hikes make this once crowded and overlooked area a hikers paradise. Hikers coming back from Gunsight Lake or Gunsight Pass will find that the hike to St. Mary Falls Shuttle Stop, although a bit longer, is a much easier elevation grade than hiking back to the Gunsight Pass Trailhead.

Trail	Trailhead Location	Mileage (one way)
St. Mary Falls	St. Mary Falls Shuttle Stop.....	1.1 mi.
Baring Falls	St. Mary Falls Shuttle Stop.....	1.0 mi.
Virginia Falls.....	St. Mary Falls Shuttle Stop.....	1.8 mi.
Sun Point.....	St. Mary Falls Shuttle Stop.....	1.6 mi.
Sunrift Gorge.....	St. Mary Falls Shuttle Stop.....	1.2 mi.
Gunsight Lake	Gunsight Pass Trailhead	6.9 mi.

Sunrift Gorge

Formed when a small stream cut through a natural break in the rock, Sunrift Gorge is a straight, steep canyon cut through the bedrock just 200 hundred feet off the main road. Also at this location one of the most beautiful bridges along the entire Going-to-the-Sun Road is found. Baring Creek Bridge is an excellent example of how native stone materials were used to blend the road into the landscape. A short hike under the bridge leads to Baring Falls. Hikers may continue from there to St. Mary and Virginia Falls. The steep approach to the Siyeh Pass Area starts here as well.

Trail	Trailhead Location	Mileage (one way)
Baring Falls	Sunrift Gorge.....	0.2 mi.
Siyeh Pass Area	Sunrift Gorge.....	5.6 mi.
Siyeh Bend.....	Sunrift Gorge.....	10.3 mi.
St. Mary Falls	Sunrift Gorge.....	1.9 mi.
Virginia Falls.....	Sunrift Gorge.....	2.6 mi.
Sun Point.....	Sunrift Gorge.....	0.8 mi.
Sunrift Gorge.....	Sunrift Gorge.....	~ 200 feet.

Sun Point

The Sun Point Chalets are long gone, but the view from the Sun Point Nature Trail reveals why they were so popular in their day. The trail winds high above the lakeshore for about a mile back to Sunrift Gorge. From there the trail continues past Baring Falls to St. Mary, and Virginia Falls. Shuttle stops at St. Mary Falls or Sunrift Gorge make a “hike and ride” trip an excellent afternoon adventure.

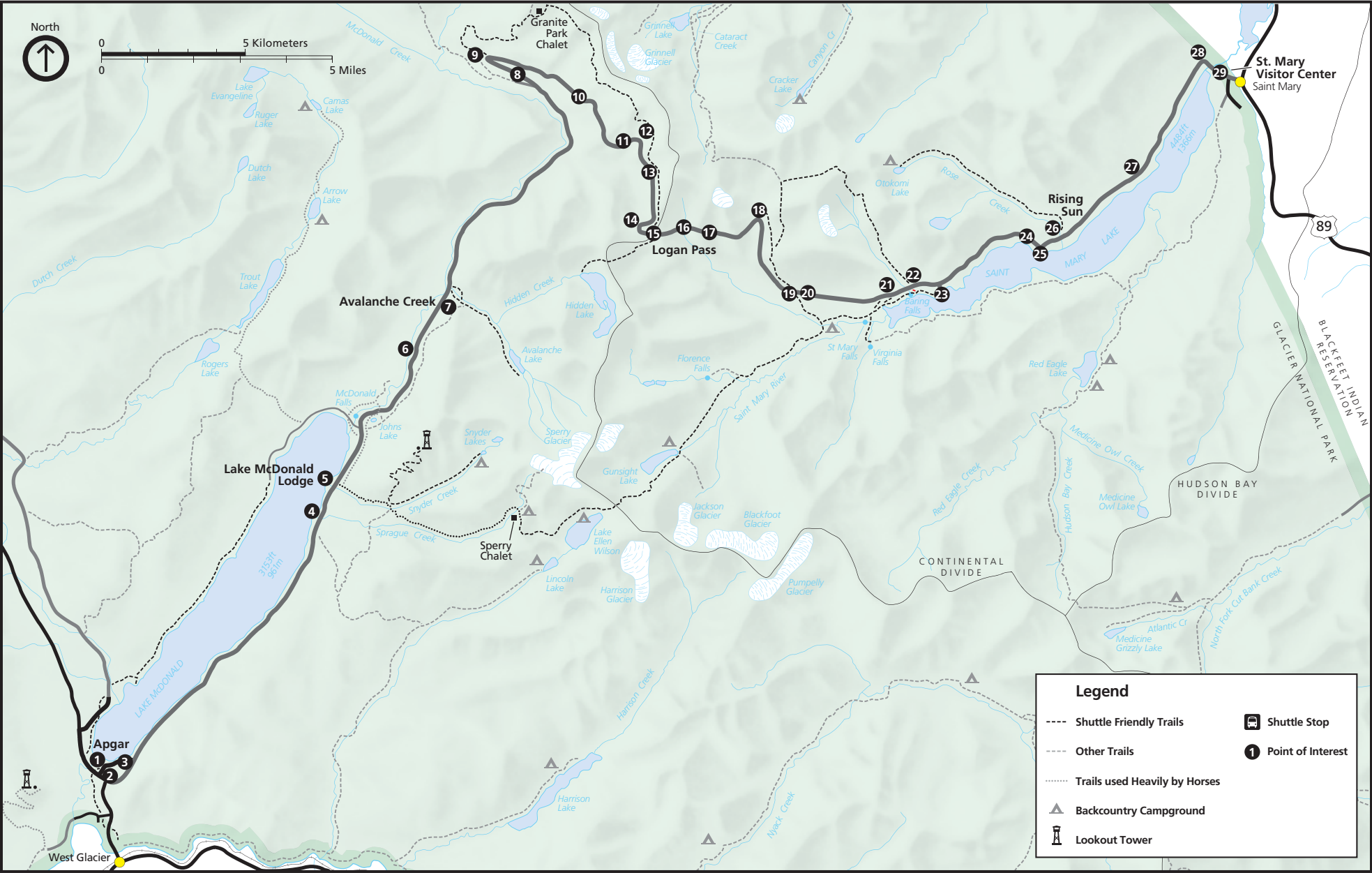
Trail	Trailhead Location	Mileage (one way)
Baring Falls	Sun Point.....	0.6 mi.
St. Mary Falls	Sun Point.....	2.3 mi.
Virginia Falls.....	Sun Point.....	3.0 mi.
Gunsight Pass Trailhead.....	Sun Point.....	5.0 mi.

Rising Sun & Rising Sun Boat Dock

The main trail from Rising Sun follows Rose Creek up to Otokomi Lake. Another option from here however is to take a boat from the boat dock to the head of St. Mary Lake and explore the waterfalls found there, and shuttle back to Rising Sun. Cruise, hike, and ride all in one trip while discovering this special part of Glacier National Park.

Trail	Trailhead Location	Mileage (one way)
Otokomi Lake	Rising Sun Campstore	5.2 mi.
Sunrift Gorge.....	Boat from Rising Sun to Baring Falls Dock	0.3 mi.
Sun Point.....	Boat from Rising Sun to Baring Falls Dock	0.7 mi.
St. Mary Falls	Boat from Rising Sun to Baring Falls Dock	1.5 mi.
Virginia Falls.....	Boat from Rising Sun to Baring Falls Dock	2.2 mi.

Points of Interest on the Going-to-the-Sun Road



- 1

Apgar Village

Lodges, gift shops, food service and the Apgar Visitor Center make Apgar the hub of activity on the west side of the park.
- 2

Apgar Transit Center

The Apgar Transit Center is a new addition to Glacier. Constructed to mitigate congestion on the Going-to-the-Sun Road during road rehabilitation, it is the west side hub for the park's new transit system.
- 3

Apgar Campground

Apgar is the largest campground in the park and makes a great base camp for explorations of the west side of Glacier.
- 4

Sprague Creek Campground

Get here early to obtain one of the sites right on the water. No towed units are permitted, making this a favorite of tent campers.
- 5

Lake McDonald Lodge

On the shores of Lake McDonald, the lodge is reminiscent of a Swiss chalet with a hunting lodge atmosphere. Boat tours and horseback rides depart from here.
- 6

McDonald Creek Overlook

McDonald Creek looks placid and calm for most of the summer, but early season visitors see a thundering torrent carrying trees and boulders.
- 7

Avalanche Creek

Explore the dense cedar-hemlock forest on the Trail of the Cedars Nature Trail, a hike to Avalanche Lake, a picnic, or by camping at one of the most popular sites in the park.
- 8

West Tunnel

As you drive through the West Tunnel, imagine the time and manpower it took to bore through 192 feet of mountain using 1926 technology.

- 9

The Loop

This only switchback on the Going-to-the-Sun Road affords a scenic view of Heaven's Peak and an up-close look at the Trapper Fire of 2003 where it burned across the road. A strenuous, 4-mile hike to Granite Park Chalet begins here.
- 10

Bird Woman Falls Overlook

Across the valley, Bird Woman Falls cascades 492 feet from the slopes of Mt. Oberlin.
- 11

Weeping Wall

Roll up your windows as you pass the Weeping Wall. A gushing waterfall in spring, the flow reduces to a mere trickle in late summer and fall.
- 12

Big Bend

One of the most spectacular views from the Going-to-the-Sun Road is at Big Bend. As its name suggests, this big bend in the road provides enough room to park and take in the views of Mt. Canon, Mt. Oberlin, Heavens Peak, and the Weeping Wall.
- 13

Triple Arches

This architectural and engineering marvel is best seen by eastbound travelers on the road.
- 14

Oberlin Bend

Oberlin Bend is just west of Logan Pass below cascading waterfalls of Mt. Oberlin. A short boardwalk offers astounding views of hanging valleys and the Going-to-the-Sun Road as it winds across the landscape below the Garden Wall. Don't be surprised if you see Mountain goats.
- 15

Logan Pass

Logan Pass sits on the Continental Divide at 6,646 feet. Alpine meadows filled with wildflowers carpet the hillsides. Mountain goats and marmots are frequently seen along with the occasional grizzly bear. The popular Hidden Lake and Highline trails begin here.
- 16

Lunch Creek

Surrounded by carpets of wildflowers in the summer, Lunch Creek flows down a natural rock staircase from the striking backdrop of Pollack Mountain.

- 17

East Tunnel

The East Side Tunnel was one of the most difficult challenges on the Going-to-the-Sun road. The 408-foot tunnel comes directly out of Piegan Mtn, with waterfalls cascading down the portal.
- 18

Siyeh Bend

Located at a prominent bend on the Going-to-the-Sun Road, the Siyeh Bend Shuttle Stop marks the transition between the higher elevation sub-alpine vegetation and the forests of the east side. Several great day hikes begin here.
- 19

Jackson Glacier Overlook

Stop here for the best view of a glacier from anywhere on the Going-to-the-Sun Road.
- 20

Gunsight Pass Trailhead

Backpackers or physically-fit day hikers up for an all-day, strenuous adventure can ascend to the Continental Divide and gain access to glaciers, subalpine lakes, the historic Sperry Chalet, and many unparalleled mountainous vistas.
- 21

St. Mary Falls Shuttle Stop

One of the most popular hikes in the park, is a 2.4 mile round trip which can be extended to 3.6 miles by continuing to Virginia Falls. The hike offers a short and pleasant stroll down to the valley floor, crossing the stream below the roaring St. Mary Falls.
- 22

Sunrift Gorge

A spectacular view of a water-carved gorge is just a short 75 foot walk. Look for dippers in the creek. These chunky, slate-grey birds are often sighted along rushing streams, foraging for aquatic insects.
- 23

Sun Point

Explore the effects of water, wind, and ice on the 1.2 mile (one way) Sun Point Nature Trail. Spectacular views of St. Mary Lake and cascading Baring Falls are highlights. For a longer hike, continue on to St. Mary and Virginia Falls.

- 24

Wild Goose Island

This is one of the most frequently photographed spots in the park. Tiny Wild Goose Island offers a striking counter-point to the majestic peaks in the background.
- 25

Golden Staircase

This large pullout along Saint Mary Lake offers views of Saint Mary Lake as well as an opportunity to marvel at the skill of the builders of the Going-to-the-Sun Road.
- 26

Rising Sun

The prairies meet the mountains at Rising Sun where spectacular sunrises sparkle across the surface of St. Mary Lake. Guided boat tours allow visitors to experience towering mountain peaks, from a perspective not available on the Going-to-the-Sun Road.
- 27

Two Dog Flats

This native grassland community provides habitat for a number of species. Hawks prey upon small mammals while songbirds forage on seeds and insects. Two Dog Flats supplies needed winter range for a large elk population.
- 28

St. Mary Campground

St. Mary campground is the largest campground on the east side of Glacier National Park, and is conveniently located approximately one half mile from the St. Mary visitor center.
- 29

St. Mary Visitor Center